## Augmenting hydel power generation

- 1145. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether hydel power generation is just 17 per cent of the available potentials;
  - (b) what is average cost of hydel generation per unit; and
  - (c) the steps being taken to augment these potentials in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The country is endowed with an economically exploitable viable potential assessed at 84,044 MW at 60 per cent load factor. However, only 16.6 per cent of this potential has been exploited, 6.3 per cent is under various stages

## [28 November 2001] RAJYA SABHA

of development and 2.73 per cent has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(b) The cost of hydro power generation per unit depends on factors such as date of setting up the generation projects, geological and technical factors, rehabilitation and other related issues. The average cost per unit in various States is given below:

SI. No.	Name of State	Cost of generation (P/Kwh) (Year 2000-01)
1.	Haryana	23.14
2.	Karnataka	40.37
3.	Himachal Pradesh	113.00
4.	Meghalaya	86.01
5.	Andhra Pradesh	36.31
6.	Tamil Nadu	24.00
7.	Maharashtra	44.95
8.	West Bengal	357.99

(c) Government of India is according high priority to development of hydro-electric projects in the country and has so far tentatively identified hydro-electric projects of 16,338 MW for benefits in the Xth Plan and 25,254 MW for benefits in the XIth Plan. However, the capacity addition identified for benefits in these Plans would depend on obtaining statutory clearances and tying-up of necessary funds.

The budgetary support for hydro-electric projects under Central sector has been substantially increased from Rs. 1256 crores to Rs. 2082 crores over the last four years. Government of India is also providing assistance to the State sector projects through loans from Power Finance Corporation. A Special Accelerated Power

Development Programme has been launched for Renovation, Modernisation and Uprating activities of hydro stations.

Government of India has recently introduced 3 stage development of hydro-electric projects under Central sector with a view to reducing time and cost overrun in implementing the hydro-electric projects. The Central Electricity Authority has also completed a preliminary ranking of all the potential hydro sites in all river basins of the country based on technical and non-technical parameters.

## Streamlining the power distribution system

†1146. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that because of some defects the present power distribution system is divided into various categories;
  - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the problem of power distribution in rural areas is more acute than in the industrial/metropolitan/VIP areas;
  - (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government propose to adopt a concrete policy to prevent its impact on the agriculture and streamlining the power distribution system in rural areas particularly in respect of the power consumed in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) Power distribution system is divided into various categories depending on the voltage at which power is supplied, as given below:

- \* Sub-transmission and Distribution System 66 KV, 33 KV
- \* HT Distribution System 11 KV
- \* LT Distribution System 415 V, 240 V

The problem of theft and pilferage is more acute in the LT Distribution System as compared to HT Distribution System. The

t. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.